

Name: **Bates Hole WY-030-27N80W3-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ N/A _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): __ N/A

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Bates Hole WY-030-27N80W3-2012** Acreage 5111.01

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes X No

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the east by County Road 2W a.k.a. Shirley Rd. The unit is bound on the west by WY State Hwy 77. The unit is bound on the south by the junction of the two formerly mentioned roads. The unit is bound on the north by WY State Hwy 487. The unit is bound on the northwest by private.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Bates Hole area under consideration is 5111.01 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t27n	r80w	2	t28n	r79w	20
t28n	r80w	34	t28n	r80w	24
t28n	r80w	35	t28n	r79w	19
t28n	r80w	25	t28n	r80w	23
t28n	r80w	27	t28n	r80w	22
t28n	r80w	26	t28n	r79w	17
t28n	r79w	29	t28n	r80w	13
t28n	r79w	30	t28n	r79w	18
t28n	r79w	21	t28n	r80w	15

The topography consists, primarily, of the Bates Hole and foothills of the Shirley Mountains. Elevation ranges from 7287 feet on the ridges and hills above the drainages to, approximately, 6800 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover in the unit consists of Mountain Big Sagebrush along the hills and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is recreational hunting, camping, and OHV riding.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description: The 2.14 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails). Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 1-3 and 8-9. When hiking across the Bates Hole Unit, the casual observer would encounter two primitive routes (see unit map).

The Bates Hole Unit also contains one man-made reservoir (see location in unit map and example in photos 6-7).

The range improvements, including the one reservoir and 6.83 miles of fence, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations.

When the casual observer hikes through the central portion of the unit from the SW boundary line to NE boundary line, the observer would only encounter two primitive routes, one fenceline, and one reservoir. Thus, it was determined that naturalness occurred throughout the majority of the unit.

In sum, the primitive routes and range improvements have not impaired the naturalness in the Bates Hole Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description: The Bates Hole area offers opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, photography, bird watching, and sightseeing. The vast majority of the unit requires non-motorized access for participation in recreation opportunities. There is an absence of a foot trail system which increases opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. The central portion of the unit can be very remote and, thus, provides challenge and risk for the casual Wyoming hiker.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Bates Hole WY-030-27N80W3-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Check one:

 X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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Date: _____